



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

mw

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/603,979

06/24/2003

Roger Sippl

2501044-991010

3747

26379

7590

11/15/2006

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US, LLP
2000 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
E. PALO ALTO, CA 94303-2248

EXAMINER

BECKER, SHASHI KAMALA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/603,979	Applicant(s) SIPPL ET AL.	
	Examiner Shashi K. Becker	Art Unit 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2006.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/24/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wical, US Patent 6112201, in view of Cambot et al, (hereinafter Cambot), US Patent 5555403.

- In regards to claims 1, 7, and 8, Wical teaches an article of manufacturing, computer system, and a method of dynamically (column 12 lines 59-64) relating a first operation to a second operation in forming a desired relationship, said method comprising: searching in an application dictionary for operations involving one or more characteristics relating to the first Operation and the second

operation based on a user input (Figure 2b); selecting the first operation from said application dictionary (Figure 2b, "science, tech. and education"); selecting the second operation from the application dictionary (Figure 2b, "communications"). However, Wical fails to specifically teach joining said first operation to said second operation to form said desired relationship.

Cambot teaches a relational database access system using semantically dynamic objects. Cambot further teaches joining said first operation to said second operation to form said desired relationship (column 7 lines 35-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method and apparatus of Wical, to include joining the first and second operation, taught by Cambot, in order to create a desired relationship between operations. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order for the user to be able to designate which operations and objects he/she desires to join.

- In regards to claim 2, Wical teaches the above limitations (see claim 1 *supra*). Wical further teaches said first operation comprises a first input and a first output and wherein said first operation operates said first input to obtain said first output (Figure 2b, and column 11 line 60-column 12 lines 10).
- In regards to claim 3, Wical teaches the above limitations (see claim 1 *supra*). Wical further teaches said second operation comprises a second input and a second output and wherein said second operation operates said second input to obtain said second output (Figure 2C, and column 12 lines 10-27).

- In regards to claim 4, Wical teaches the above limitations (see claim 1 *supra*). Wical further teaches wherein said desired relationship provides said first output as said second input (Figure 2b, where a first output of “hard science and technology” is a second input).
- In regards to claim 5, Wical teaches the above limitations (see claim 1 *supra*). Wical further teaches wherein said first operation operates on a first object type (Figure 2b, where “science, tech. and education” can be a first object type).
- In regards to claim 6, Wical teaches the above limitations (see claim 1 *supra*). Wical further teaches wherein said second operation operates on a second object type (Figure 2b, where “social sciences” can be a second object type).
- In regards to claims 9, 10 and 11, Wical teaches the above limitations (see claim 1 *supra*). Wical further teaches an article of manufacturing, a computer system and a method comprising: a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to select the first object type (column 6 lines 3-11); a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to select the second object type (column 6 lines 3-11). However, Wical does not specifically teach a computer usable medium having computer readable program code-embodied therein configured to select the desired operation to be used to relate the first object type to the second object type; a computer usable medium having computer readable

program code embodied therein configured to establish a desired transformation of data from the first object type to be input to the desired operation; and a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to establish a desired transformation of the output of the desired operation to be data of the second object type.

Cambot teaches a relational database access system using semantically dynamic objects. Cambot further teaches a computer usable medium having computer readable program code-embodied therein configured to select the desired operation to be used to relate the first object type to the second object type (column 7 lines 35-56); a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to establish a desired transformation of data from the first object type to be input to the desired operation (column 7 lines 35-56); and a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to establish a desired transformation of the output of the desired operation to be data of the second object type (column 7 lines 35-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method and apparatus of Wical, to include joining the first and second operation, taught by Cambot, in order to create a desired relationship between operations. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order for the user to be able to designate which operations and objects he/she desires to join.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shashi K. Becker whose telephone number is 571-272-8919. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

skb

BA HUYNH
(PRIMARY EXAMINER)